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ABSTRACT

When the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP) was established in 1972, its first order of business was to assess the extent of the drug problem and to identify the programs available for dealing with it. A decision was made by that office to attempt to provide to management, at both the State and Federal levels, an effective decision making tool in the form of meaningful displays of data that would indicate the degrees of effectiveness and costs of the various approaches to the drug abuse problem. This report describes the Integrated Drug Abuse Management Information Systems (IDAMIS), developed by the National Institute on Drug Abuse as a result of a charge from SAODAP. This system maintains and provides timely program, technical, and financial information on State and Federal drug abuse prevention activities. (Author/PC)

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INTEGRATED DRUG ABUSE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM BRIEFING REPORT

When the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP) was established in June 1972, its first order of business was to assess the extent of the drug problem and to identify the programs available for dealing with it. It was recognized that new drug abuse management efforts could not be intelligently undertaken without first understanding the nature and status of the current situation.

At that time, a number of drug abuse reporting mechanisms existed, most of which were related to programs totally, or in part, funded by the Federal Government. Since the existence and activities of these programs was already known, it was determined that all programs, federally, locally, and privately supported, had to be identified in order to develop a total picture of the drug abuse treatment, prevention, and education services available throughout the country.

SAODAP then decided that, in addition to the identification of existing programs, a viable information system should be developed for the collection and presentation of demographic, financial, and treatment activity data. This decision was made with the ultimate goal of providing to management, at both the State and Federal levels, an effective decision making tool in the form of meaningful displays of data that would indicate the degrees of effectiveness and costs of the various approaches to the drug abuse problem.

In order to respond to these SAODAP decisions, the Division of Scientific and Program Information of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (DSPI/NIDA) was charged with the responsibility for the development and implementation of the Integrated Drug Abuse Management Information System (IDAMIS), a system for maintaining and providing timely program, technical, and financial information on State and Federal drug abuse prevention activities.

Division of Scientific and Program Information of The National Institute on Drug Abuse

The DSPI/NIDA serves as the primary source of technical and managerial information for the Federal Government and States. It is also responsible for the design and implementation of all federally sponsored, general purpose, drug abuse information programs. DSPI operates the Federal information systems that relate to drug abuse. In addition to the above, it provides assistance to the Single State Agencies (SSA's) on matters pertaining to drug abuse management information systems.

System Development

In order to be fully responsive to the SAODAP charge, DSPI determined that three categories of information are critical to Federal and SSA needs for the management and monitoring of State programs. These categories of information are:

1. Descriptions of drug abuse phenomena
2. An inventory of all drug abuse units
3. Financial management information

It was further determined that the--

1. Descriptions of drug abuse phenomena should contain:

    a. Geographic locations of acute drug problems
    b. Geographic directions in which specific forms of serious abuse are moving
    c. Demographic characteristics of abusers
    d. Trends toward seeking or not seeking treatment
    e. Whether a waiting line exists for treatment
    f. Other related and informative data.

2. The inventory of all drug abuse units should contain:

    a. Data describing the identity of each program and project
    b. Data describing the services offered at the unit
    c. Data describing the current status of each unit (are the funds going to run out at the end of the month, etc.?)

3. Financial management information should contain:

    a. Data on planning and programming

b. Data on budgeting and cost funding
c. Data for grants and contracts management

With this data collecting capability as its objective, DSPI conceptualized the Integrated Drug Abuse Management Information System as a total comprehensive drug abuse management information system comprised of three modules containing common identifying data elements.

IDAMIS

IDAMIS is an information system designed to provide Federal and State Government with timely and useful data on drug abuse phenomena, drug abuse prevention units, and related financial information.

It is a series of three stand-alone subsystems, or modules, designed to provide the information required for intelligent and effective management decision making processes. These modules contain common identifying data elements necessary for the integration of the modules into one total comprehensive drug abuse management information system.

IDAMIS is composed of three major or prime subsystems.

1. Client Oriented Data Acquisition Process (CODAP)
2. Drug Abuse Prevention Resource Units (DAPRU)
3. Financial Management Information System (FMIS)

CODAP

CODAP is that module of IDAMIS concerned with data on drug abuse phenomena. It is the reporting system required by the participating Federal agencies to acquire uniform, client-related data, on a recurring basis. This data is used to support the decision making needs with repect to performance and followup in the area of treatment and rehabilitation.

Data is introduced via the CODAP Input Report Form (OMB No. 68-R-1442), a five-part form containing reports on admissions, discharges, activity, client progress, and summary data on client flow.

This form by use of the Admission and Discharge reports provides information relating to the two most crucial points in the treatment process. The data derived from these two reports provides the major information output source of CODAP. The Activity Report provides the treatment process information essential to fulfill NIDA grant and contract specifications. The Client Flow Summary is a type of transmittal sheet, which along with the three prior mentioned reports constitutes

the entire reporting system for most treatment units. The Client Progress Report is a specific requirement of the Bureau of Prisons for reporting the individual progress of their clients only.

CODAP is designed to provide management with information on clinic administrative data (i.e., identification, funding sources, program linkages, and client capacities, etc.), clinic activity, client demography, treatment approaches, treatment summaries, first usage incidence, and other drug abuse phenomena.

This information is, and can be, aggregated by many combinations of interest items at various levels of reporting, thus providing a wide range of useful data displays for management use.

DAPRU

DAPRU is the drug abuse inventory module of IDAMIS. Its objective is to construct and maintain a dynamic inventory of every drug abuse prevention unit in the United States, including trusts and territories.

This portion of IDAMIS will provide accurate and current information on all types of drug abuse programs, regardless of funding.

DAPRU records the number, type, and location of all drug abuse prevention resources that exist within the United States. It also gathers information about these resources to provide a composite picture of the nature, type, and level of operation of each resource unit. In addition to the above, it traces how units operating under a single organizational entity are linked to each other in terms of vertical administrative control as well as horizontal operational relationships. All of this information will be fed into a computer for ease in updating and analytical report generation.

This inventory will contain information on treatment service units, administrative service units, central intake units, other treatment related units, training service units, education service units, information service units, and research service units.

FMIS

FMIS is the financial management information module of IDAMIS. Its objective is to provide NIDA and the SSA's with the capability to manage the grant and contract funds used in support of the drug abuse program. FMIS provides the financial data to support the planning and programming function, the budgeting and cost funding function, and the grants and contracts control function of the various levels of drug abuse management.

This IDAMIS module will provide financial information for treatment and rehabilitation programs, education and training programs, research programs, and demonstration programs.

It is designed to provide information on all drug abuse funding sources. The NIDA version pertains primarily to NIDA funding. However, the reporting system for the States includes information on all funding sources.

FMIS gives drug abuse management the vehicle to maintain records of all grants and contracts, to identify the rates of expenditure for all grants and contracts, to identify all third party income, and to calculate cost data for programs units on a per client basis for various modality, environment and service categories.

Integrated Drug Abuse Reporting Process (IDARP)
(Additional support to the States for the federally sponsored IDAMIS)

The Federal Government, specifically NIDA, realized that many of the Single State Agencies did not have sufficient resources in the form of funds, manpower, or hardware (EDP equipment) to maintain the IDAMIS or any of its subsystems after installation. In order to assist the Single State Agencies in their efforts to maintain IDAMIS, DSPI/NIDA initiated the IDARP (Integrated Drug Abuse Reporting Process). IDARP is, basically, a bonus from NIDA to the Single State Agencies in that it provides funds to the agencies for use in acquiring needed manpower, data processing services and hardware, and other related administrative expenses. These funds are also to be used for technical assistance and State agency training programs.

The IDARP is activated by mutually agreed upon contracts between DSPI/NIDA and the Single State Agencies under which NIDA will provide the Single State Agencies the support funds, and the Single State Agencies will provide DSPI/NIDA with CODAP, DAPRU, and FMIS data, as specified by DSPI/NIDA.

Thus, full acceptance of IDARP by the Single State Agencies results in support to the general management of the agencies' drug abuse prevention activities, and the process by which compliance to the data requirements is ensured.

Presently all of the States, trusts and territories of the United States have entered into IDARP contracts with NIDA.

The National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information, operated by the National Institute on Drug Abuse on behalf of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention and the Federal agencies engaged in drug abuse education programs, is the focal point for Federal information on drug abuse. The Clearinghouse distributes publications and refers specialized and technical inquiries to Federal, State, local, and private information resources. Inquiries should be directed to the National Clearinghouse for Drug Abuse Information, P.O. Box 1908, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

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